

vehicles described herein. For example, Sections 1-3 refer to rebate vehicles (e.g., coupons and in-store specials) in general. As another example, Section 4 states that one embodiment uses a rebate vehicle downloaded from Web server software 202, and also states that in one embodiment the rebate amounts for the rebate vehicles are contained within the scanned bar codes, which clearly encompasses related-art FSIs. In addition, the figures, in general, do not limit their descriptions to coupons and in-store specials downloaded and printed from a Web server, and hence encompass related-art FSIs. Thus, those having ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that unless context requires otherwise, the embodiments described herein will function with FSIs.

Claims:

Please amend and leave unchanged claims as follows:

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1. (Amended) A method comprising:  
dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor.
  2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:  
transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of specific rebate data.
  3. (Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of specific rebate data includes:  
transmitting data to inform the manufacturer of at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer, where such payment is based, at least in part, on a record having at least one recorded rebate transaction.
  4. (Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of specific rebate data further includes:  
transmitting data to inform the manufacturer of at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer, where such payment is based, at least in part, on a
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record having at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

5. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

transmitting data to inform a retailer of specific rebate data.

6. (Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein said transmitting data to inform a retailer of specific rebate data further includes:

transmitting data to inform the retailer of at least one payment due or owed to the retailer, where such payment is based, at least in part, on a record having at least one recorded rebate transaction.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein said transmitting data to inform a retailer of specific rebate data further includes:

transmitting data to inform the retailer of at least one payment due or owed to the retailer, where such payment is based, at least in part, on a record having at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

8. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

recording a rebate transaction.

9. (Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein said recording a rebate transaction further includes:

adjusting a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter in response to a message, associated with at least one rebate-related vendor, that a rebate vehicle has been scanned.

10. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 9, wherein the rebate vehicle comprises a coupon or an in-store special.

11. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

sending a message that a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter has been adjusted in response to a message from at least one rebate-related vendor that a rebate vehicle has been scanned.

12. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

sending a message -- containing at least one part selected from the group comprising a value of a rebate, and at least one limit on a quantity of a rebate -- in response to a message, associated with at least one rebate-related vendor, that a rebate vehicle has been scanned.

13. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

receiving a message, associated with a vendor, that at least one rebate vehicle has been scanned.

14. (Amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein said receiving a message, associated with a vendor, that at least one rebate vehicle has been scanned has been scanned further includes:

checking the message for an indicia of origination.

15. (Amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein said receiving a message, associated with a vendor, that at least one rebate vehicle has been scanned further includes:

receiving a message associated with at least one scanner of the vendor.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein said receiving a message associated with at least one scanner of the vendor further includes:

receiving the message via at least one central computer.

17. (Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein said receiving a message associated with at least one scanner of the vendor further includes:

receiving the message via at least one computer local to a retailer or a manufacturer.

18. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further comprises:

receiving a message inquiring as to monies owed.

19. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further comprising:

receiving a message associated with a retailer or a manufacturer.

20. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

transmitting data to inform a vendor as to monies owed for said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

21. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting billing data for said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

22. (Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein said transmitting billing data for said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list further comprises:

transmitting billing data having a fee selected from a group comprising a fee based upon answering an inquiry as to monies owed, a fee based on a value of rebate transactions, and a fee based on a number of rebate transactions.

23. (Amended) A system comprising:

means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor.

24. (Amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of specific rebate data.

25. (Amended) The system of Claim 24, wherein said means for transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of specific rebate data includes:

means for transmitting data to inform the manufacturer of at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer, where such payment is based, at least in part, on a record having at least one recorded rebate transaction.

26. (Amended) The system of Claim 24, wherein said means for transmitting data to inform a manufacturer of specific rebate data further includes:

means for transmitting data to inform the manufacturer of at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer, where such payment is based, at least in part, on a record having at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

27. (Amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

means for transmitting data to inform a retailer of specific rebate data.

28. (Amended) The system of Claim 27, wherein said means for transmitting data to inform a retailer of specific rebate data further includes:

means for transmitting data to inform the retailer of at least one payment due or owed to the retailer, where such payment is based, at least in part, on a record having at least one recorded rebate transaction.

29. (Amended) The system of Claim 27, wherein said means for transmitting data to inform a retailer of specific rebate data means for informing a retailer of specific rebate data further includes:

means for transmitting data to inform the retailer of at least one payment due or owed to the retailer, where such payment is based, at least in part, on a record having at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

30. (Amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

means for recording a rebate transaction.

31. (Amended) The system of Claim 30, wherein said means for recording a rebate transaction further includes:

means for adjusting a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter in response to a message, associated with at least one rebate-related vendor, that a rebate vehicle has been scanned.

32. (Unchanged) The system of Claim 31, wherein the rebate vehicle comprises a coupon or an in-store special.

33. (Amended) The system of Claim 23; wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

means for sending a message that a rebate vehicle volume-of-usage counter has been adjusted in response to a message from at least one rebate-related vendor that a rebate vehicle has been scanned.

34. (Amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

means for sending a message -- containing at least one part selected from the group comprising a value of a rebate, and at least one limit on a quantity of a rebate -- in response to a message, associated with at least one rebate-related vendor that a rebate vehicle has been scanned.

35. (Amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:

means for receiving a message, associated with a vendor, that at least one rebate vehicle has been scanned.

36. (Amended) The system of Claim 35, wherein said means for receiving a message, associated with a vendor, that at least one rebate vehicle has been scanned has been scanned further includes:

means for checking the message for an indicia of origination.

37. (Amended) The system of Claim 35, wherein said means for receiving a message, associated with a vendor, that at least one rebate vehicle has been scanned further includes:

means for receiving a message associated with at least one scanner of the vendor.

38. (Amended) The system of Claim 37, wherein said means for receiving a message associated with at least one scanner of the vendor further includes:  
means for receiving the message via at least one central computer.

39. (Amended) The system of Claim 37, wherein said means for receiving a message associated with at least one scanner of the vendor further includes:  
means for receiving the message via at least one computer local to a retailer or a manufacturer.

40. (Amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further comprises:  
means for receiving a message inquiring as to monies owed.

41. (Amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further comprising:  
means for receiving a message associated with a retailer or a manufacturer.

42. (Amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further includes:  
means for transmitting data to inform a vendor as to monies owed for said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

43. (Amended) The system of Claim 23, further comprising:  
means for transmitting billing data for said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

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44. (Amended) The system of Claim 43, wherein said means for transmitting billing data for said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list further comprises:

means for transmitting billing data having a fee selected from a group comprising a fee based upon answering an inquiry as to monies owed, a fee based on a value of rebate transactions, and a fee based on a number of rebate transactions.

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Please add new claims as follows:

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45. (New) A method comprising:  
displaying information in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list vendor identifier.

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46. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the vendor identifier further includes:

the vendor identifier selected from the vendor-identifier list comprising a user identifier, a password, a cookie, and an encrypted symbol.

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47. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein said displaying information in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list vendor identifier further includes:  
displaying manufacturer-specific rebate data.

48. (New) The method of Claim 47, wherein said displaying manufacturer-specific rebate data further includes:

displaying at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer.

49. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein said displaying at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer further includes:

displaying at least one payment due or owed to the at least one retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction.

50. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein said displaying at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer further includes:

displaying at least one payment due or owed to the at least one retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

51. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein said displaying at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer further includes:

displaying at least one coupon or an in-store special transaction.

52. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein said displaying information in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list vendor identifier includes:

displaying retailer-specific rebate data.

53. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein said displaying retailer-specific rebate data further includes:

displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer.

54. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein said displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer further includes:

displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction.

55. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein said displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer further includes:

displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

56. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein said displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer further includes:

displaying at least one coupon or an in-store special transaction.

57. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein said displaying information in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list vendor identifier comprises:

displaying a message as to monies owed.

58. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein said dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further comprising:

receiving a message associated with a retailer or a manufacturer.

59. (New) The method of Claim 45, further comprising:

displaying billing data related to dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

60. (New) The method of Claim 59, wherein said displaying billing data related to dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list further comprises:

displaying billing data having a fee selected from a group comprising a fee based upon answering an inquiry as to monies owed, a fee based on a value of rebate transactions, and a fee based on a number of rebate transactions.

61. (New) A System comprising:

means for displaying information in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list vendor identifier.

62. (New) The system of Claim 61, wherein the vendor identifier further includes:

the vendor identifier selected from the vendor-identifier list comprising a user identifier, a password, a cookie, and an encrypted symbol.

63. (New) The system of Claim 61, wherein said displaying information in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list vendor identifier further includes:

means for displaying manufacturer-specific rebate data.

64. (New) The system of Claim 63, wherein said means for displaying manufacturer-specific rebate data further includes:

means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer.

65. (New) The system of Claim 64, wherein said means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer further includes:

means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to the at least one retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction.

66. (New) The system of Claim 64, wherein said means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer further includes:

means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to the at least one retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

67. (New) The system of Claim 64, wherein said means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to at least one retailer further includes:

means for displaying at least one coupon or an in-store special transaction.

68. (New) The system of Claim 61, wherein said means for displaying information in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list vendor identifier includes:

means for displaying retailer-specific rebate data.

69. (New) The system of Claim 68, wherein said means for displaying retailer-specific rebate data further includes:

means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer.

70. (New) The system of Claim 69, wherein said means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer further includes:

means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction.

71. (New) The system of Claim 69, wherein said means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer further includes:

means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer in conjunction with at least one recorded rebate transaction and a specified period of time.

72. (New) The system of Claim 69, wherein said means for displaying at least one payment due or owed to the retailer further includes:

means for displaying at least one coupon or an in-store special transaction.

73. (New) The system of Claim 61, wherein said means for displaying information in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list vendor identifier comprises:

means for displaying a message as to monies owed.

74. (New) The system of Claim 61, wherein said means for dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list, in response to a multi-vendor-rebate-list message associated with a vendor further comprising:

means for receiving a message associated with a retailer or a manufacturer.

75. (New) The system of Claim 61, further comprising:

means for displaying billing data related to dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list.

76. (New) The system of Claim 75, wherein said means for displaying billing data related to dispensing information related to a multi-vendor-rebate-list further comprises:

means for displaying billing data having a fee selected from a group comprising a fee based upon answering an inquiry as to monies owed, a fee based on a value of rebate transactions, and a fee based on a number of rebate transactions.